CLAIMS

1. Method of access control of a multimedia session between a terminal A and a terminal B connected to a telecommunication network wherein, prior to session set-up, the terminal A (respectively B) transmits to the terminal B (respectively A) a message containing a list of codecs for encoding the data to be exchanged during the session to be set up, and at the end of a session, the terminal A (respectively B) transmits to the terminal B (respectively A) a request to close the session, a method characterised in that it comprises the following steps:

- intercepting the message containing the list of codecs,
- modifying the list of codecs proposed by the intercepted message in order to take into account actual bandwidth resources available for a link between the terminal A and the terminal B, and
- transmitting to the terminal B (respectively A), the message containing the modified list of codecs,
- reserving the resources and updating a database for using access resources.

2. A method according to claim 1, comprising the following steps in the event that terminal B (respectively A) should accept the request to set up a session:

- setting up the session between the terminal A and the terminal B using the modified codecs.

- calculating the residual bandwidth resources according to the bandwidth resources corresponding to the accepted codecs,
- memorising the value of the residual resources calculated during the previous step in a database for using access resources,
  - filtering the media flows according to a request for bandwidth resources,
  - authorising the flow transmission between the terminal A and the terminal B according to the bandwidth resources corresponding to the accepted codecs.

and in the event of session refusal,

- transmitting to the terminal A (respectively B) a message indicating the failure of session set-up,
- updating said database according to the bandwidth resources released on the link.

3. A method according to claim 1, comprising the following steps at the end of a multimedia session:

- intercepting the request to close the session sent by the terminal A (respectively B),
- identifying the current session for which the request to close has been sent,
- determining the codecs used during said session,
- transmitting the request intercepted to the terminal B (respectively A)
- blocking the transmission between the terminal A and the terminal B; and

- calculating the values of the residual bandwidth resources according to the resources released on the link between the terminal A and the terminal B by stopping the session, and
- updating the database for using network access resources, with the residual values of the carrying capacity calculated during the previous step.

4. A method according to claim 2, wherein the transmission of information following the set-up of the session between the terminal A and the terminal B is carried out according to recommended rates accepted by both the terminal A and the terminal B and compatible with the actual transmission capacity of the link between the terminal A and the terminal B.

5. A method according to any of claims 1 to 4, characterised in that the telecommunication network is a packet data transfer network and in that the message containing the list of codecs exchanged between the terminal A and the terminal B is transmitted via one of the signalling protocols SIP or H323.

6. An access control device for a multimedia session between a terminal A (2) and a terminal B (6) connected to a telecommunication network wherein, prior to session set-up, the terminal A (respectively B) transmits to the terminal B (respectively A) a message containing a list of codecs for encoding the data to be exchanged during the session to be set up, and at the end of a session, the

terminal A (2) (respectively B) transmits to the terminal B (6) a request to close the session, a device characterised in that it comprises means of intercepting the message containing the list of codecs and means of modifying the list of codecs proposed in the intercepted message to take into account the actual bandwidth resources available for the link between the terminal A and the terminal B.

7. A device according to claim 6, characterised in that it comprises:

- a media flow filtering module FM (8) adapted to filter on filtering request, received from a call module CM (10), the media flows relative to a session identified on the link between the terminal A and the entity B, according to rate recommendations indicated in the filtering request, and adapted to block on blocking request received from the module CM (10), the media flows relative to a session identified on this link; the module CM (8) being adapted to intercept and to route to the module CM (10) the signalling flows from the terminal A as well as the signalling flows from the entity B,
- a call module CM (10) intended to extract the codecs proposed in the signalling messages,
- a session access module SAM (12) intended to generate a new request to set up a session with a list of codecs of which the carrying capacities are compatible with the bandwidth resources available for the link between the terminal A (2) and the terminal B (6), and

- a database DB (14) containing the value of the bandwidth resources available for the link (4) between the terminal A (2) and the terminal B (6),
- a signalling flow routing module SFRM adapted to route the signalling flows transmitted between the entity A and the entity B to the call module CM.